

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate only, other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (07804-0188), Washington, DC 20503.				
1. AGENCY USE ONLY (LEAVE BLANK)		2. REPORT DATE 12 July 1999		3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Professional Paper
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Abstract - Stress Corrosion Cracking of High Strength Steels			5. FUNDING NUMBERS	
6. AUTHOR(S) Eun Lee Henry Sanders Bhaskar Sarkar				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division 22347 Cedar Point Road, Unit #6 Patuxent River, Maryland 20670-1161			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Naval Air Systems Command 47123 Buse Road, Unit IPT Patuxent River, Maryland 20670-1547			10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES				
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) The stress corrosion cracking of AerMet 100 and 300M steels was investigated in aqueous NaCl solutions of different concentrations (0.035-3.5%) but an identical electrical conductivity, employing rising step load test method. The threshold stress intensity of stress corrosion cracking, K_{ISCC} , increases from 15.4 MPa \sqrt{m} to 26.4 v with applied cathodic potential for AerMet 100 steel. On the other hand, K_{ISCC} is relatively constant, 15.4-16.5 MPa \sqrt{m} , for all potentials employed, ranging from -1.2 V _{SCE} to -0.7V _{SCE} . The open circuit potentials and the K_{ISCC} values at those potentials are greater for AerMet 100 steel than for 300M steel. These results indicate the AerMet 100 steel is nobler and more resistant to stress corrosion cracking than 300M steel. The SEM fractographs of both steels show mixed intergranular and cleavage cracking across all potential employed.				
14. SUBJECT TERMS AerMet 100 AerMet 300M Stress corrosion cracking			15. NUMBER OF PAGES 1	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT Unclassified	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE Unclassified	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT Unclassified	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UL	

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 4

19990909 238

STRESS CORROSION CRACKING OF HIGH STRENGTH STEELS

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The stress corrosion cracking of AerMet 100 and 300M steels was investigated in aqueous NaCl solutions of different concentrations (0.035-3.5%) but an identical electrical conductivity, employing rising step load test method. The threshold stress intensity for stress corrosion cracking, K_{ISCC} , increases from 15.4 MPa \sqrt{m} to 26.4 MPa \sqrt{m} with applied cathodic potential for AerMet 100 steel. On the other hand, K_{ISCC} is relatively constant, 15.4-16.5 MPa \sqrt{m} , for all potentials employed, ranging from $-1.2 V_{SCE}$ to $-0.7 V_{SCE}$. The open circuit potentials and the K_{ISCC} values at those potentials are greater for AerMet 100 steel than for 300M steel. These results indicate that AerMet 100 steel is nobler and more resistant to stress corrosion cracking than 300M steel. The SEM fractographs of both steels show mixed intergranular and cleavage cracking across all potentials employed.

ABSTRACT ONLY

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